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Borough of Solihull



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1957

BY

IAN M. McLACHLAN

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The year under review has been a very healthy one and free from major epidemics. The staff was fully occupied by the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme and to them I express my thanks for their help in achieving the remarkable acceptance figure of 80% which is far in excess of the national average figure.

IAN McLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Mayor. Councillor W.E. Wright, J.P.

Deputy Mayor. Councillor H. Morea-Brown, J.P.

Members of the Public Health Committee: Alderman J.A. Emlyn Jones (Chairman), Councillor V.E. Perry (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Allman, Lanyon, Lyons, Owens, Pettinger, Rivers, Mrs. Stott and Stradling.

The Mayor is an *ex-officio* Member of the Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

IAN M. McLACHLAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ire, L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

ERNEST VAUGHAN

a, c, d, f,

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

JOSEPH S. FORMAN

a, c, d,

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

GEOFFREY N. DEAN

b, c,

ERNEST SOUTHERN

b, c, d,

ROBERT P. CHURCHILL

b, c,

LESLIE J. PEARCE

b, c,

RONALD L. TUDGE

b, c,

Rodent Operative:

E. CALLAGHAN

Clerks

GLADYS A. ALCOCK

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS

MARGARET J. GRIFFITHS

ANN M. BIRCH (left 30.4.57)

EILEEN M. ALLINGTON (commenced 25.5.57)

Public Analysts.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY

- a Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- b Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Association Joint Examination Board.
- c Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- d Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- f Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated Mid-1957) Registrar General 81,620

Live Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	746	715	1,461
Illegitimate	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>28</u>
	<u>759</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>1,489</u>

Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population ... 18.2

Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population .17

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 9.3

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes	374	307	681

Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population 8.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	10	11	21
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>22</u>

Death Rate of all Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births 14.7

Death Rate of legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 14.3

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 3.7

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. *Hospitals.* - The following is a list of the hospitals and associated clinics in the district

- (a) Solihull Hospital (includes a Post Natal Recovery Unit at Catherine-de-Barnes, Maternity Units at Netherwood and Brook House and a Chest Clinic in Lode Lane)
Administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board
Group 25 Selly Oak Birmingham Management Committee.
- (b) Middlefield Hall - administered by Monyhull Hospital
Management Committee Group 14.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.* - The examination of specimens taken in relation to the control of infectious diseases and the examination of milk, water and ice cream samples is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry.

3. *Local Health Authority Services.* - Warwickshire County Council is responsible for midwifery, health-visiting, home nursing, domestic help, ambulance and mental health services under the terms of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The day-to-day administration of all these services with the exception of the ambulance and mental health service is carried out in the Solihull Divisional Health Office. The School Health Service and Child Welfare Centres are staffed by medical officers, specialists and nurses employed by the County Council. The specialist services include the following clinics: dental, ophthalmic, speech defects and child guidance. In addition, local voluntary workers assist and do excellent work at the Child Welfare Centres.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The Borough is supplied with mains water by the water undertakings of the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry. The number of houses served by them respectively is approximately as follows:-

<i>Birmingham</i>	<i>Coventry</i>
25,077	1,448

There is no evidence that these supplies are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

The following samples of mains water were taken during the year:-

	<i>Birmingham</i>		<i>Coventry</i>	
	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>
No. of samples submitted	1	4	1	1
No. satisfactory	1	4	1	1

Each year more of the older houses have been connected to the water mains, the number connected in 1957 being as follows:-

<i>No. of houses Connected to Mains</i>	<i>No. of Wells redundant</i>
30	21

Of 878 wells existing in 1944, 414 have now become redundant, leaving 464 wells in active use.

This progress has been made possible by the extension of water mains wherever reasonable and by connections to the main where pail closet conversions to W.C.s have been carried out, a tap being placed over the household sink at the same time.

As reported elsewhere, this progress has been helped by the payment of grants by the Council in connection with

conversions. The older houses without mains supply, invariably are situated in the rural part of the area, and whilst it is the Council's policy to connect as many houses as possible to the main, in many cases the cost of doing so is prohibitive.

Results of Samples from Wells

A number of samples from individual wells were submitted to the appropriate laboratory whilst investigating complaints or for the purposes of supervision, and the results were as follows:-

	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>
No. of Samples submitted	3	149
No. satisfactory in both tests	1	
No. unsatisfactory in both tests	1	
No. satisfactory in chemical test only	1	
No. satisfactory in bacterio- logical test only		31
No. unsatisfactory in bact- eriological test only		81
No. doubtful in bacterio- logical test only		37

Most of the samples examined bacteriologically were taken in order to supervise the water supply to the Mount Estate, an area which will probably be dealt with under the Demolition Provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, as part of the Slum Clearance Programme.

Number of houses and population served by public water mains.

(a) Direct to Houses

The number of houses and retail shops as ascertained from the rate books is 27,136. Of these, approximately 26,506 houses or 97.7% are connected direct to the mains whilst 611 or 2.3% are served by 464 wells.

(b) By Standpipes

19 houses are served by mains water from 8 standpipes or taps in out buildings for the common use of several houses.

Drainage and Sewerage

The local sewerage system has been extended by the laying of 7,599 yards of foul sewers and 12,195 yards of surface water sewers, of which 840 yards of foul sewers were constructed in connection with the laying of the new trunk sewer which will ultimately drain the rural area of Packwood, Darley Green and the village of Hockley Heath.

Closet Accommodation and Cesspools

During the year under review, 36 pail closets were converted to mechanically flushed water closets, and incidentally 16 cesspools were put out of use, and £925 was paid by the Council to owners of properties in the form of grants towards the cost of conversions.

Over the past 10 years, 240 pail closets have been dispensed with.

The Borough Surveyor's Department which is responsible for the emptying of pail closets and cesspools states that at the end of 1957, 616 pail closets, 7 privy middens, and 765 cesspools exist in the Council's area and the number of properties drained to cesspools is stated to be 1,118.

Public Cleansing

The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Borough, the ash bin method of storage being general and the system of disposal that of controlled tipping.

D. HOUSING

The following are details of new units of housing accommodation completed during the year:

Council Houses	...	...	...	94
Private Houses	...	...	...	1,056
Self Help Housing Association	...	...	...	13
Flats	...	...	...	<u>38</u>
				<u>1,201</u>

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	275
Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	59
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	55
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	216

Houses demolished or closed:

Number of houses demolished as a result of procedure under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	51
Number of persons displaced as a result of above	...	...	...	...	91
Number of houses closed	...	...	...	...	1
Number of persons displaced as a result of a Closing Order	...	...	...	...	4

Repairs:

Number of houses made fit after informal action	...	...	...	...	53
Number of houses made fit after formal notice	...	...	...	...	6

Rent Act, 1957 - This Act came into force in July and had the effect of decontrolling, after 15 months delay, houses in England and Wales, outside London, of a rateable value of £30 or less. The rent of such houses could not be increased if the tenant considered that repairs were necessary and this was approved by the Public Health Department and a Certificate of Disrepair issued. There were safe guards for both landlord and tenant.

The work involved is reflected to some extent in the Table below showing how applications for Certificate of disrepair were dealt with.

PART I - APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF DISREPAIR.

(1) Number of applications for certificate	60
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	60
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	30
(b) in respect of all defects	30
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	52
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under provision to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued	6

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register

Retail Dairymen	10
Shopkeepers retailing milk	24
Retail Dairymen registered outside Solihull but selling milk in the district	13

Licences issued in connection with the sale of Designated Milks

Supplementary Licences

Pasteurised	13
Sterilised	13
Tuberculin Tested	13

Dealer's Licences

Pasteurised	25
Sterilised	33
Tuberculin Tested	18

MILK SAMPLES

The following table gives the results of milk samples submitted for biological, bacteriological, phosphatase and turbidity tests.

	Untreated Milk		Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk		Pasteurised Milk		Sterilised Milk		Totals	
No. of Samples				71		126		58		255
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue Test			71		116				187	
Phosphatase Test			71		116				187	
Turbidity Test							58		58	
T.B. Inoculation Test					9				9	

ICE CREAM

Manufacturers

Manufacturers Premises

Registered at close of 1957	...	...	...	...	14
Discontinued manufacture	...	...	...	...	13

There is now only one manufacturer of ice cream in the Borough. The cold mix method is used.

Vendors

Registered and retailing ice cream at close of 1957	180
New registrations during the year	3
Registrations transferred	11
Discontinued	1

Vendors premises where pre packed and/or loose ice cream was sold were as follows

Selling pre packed ice cream only	142
Selling pre packed and loose ice cream	34
Selling loose ice cream only	3

The methylene blue test was used for estimating the bacteriological quality. The results of tests are divided into four grades. 17 samples were submitted to the test and grades as follows

Grades	1	2	3	4
No. of Samples	14	3		

Grade 1 is the highest grade and ice creams placed in grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory.

Analysis of Ice Cream Samples for Fat Content, Sugar and Milk Solids.

Number of Samples	Satisfactory
13	13

By the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1953, Ice Cream is required to contain 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat.

Iced Lollipops

Of 172 vendors of iced lollipops in the area 5 are manufacturing the product they sell by retail. Only one of these supplies other retailers.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

At the close of the year 7 slaughterhouses were operating within the Council's area one of them under a long term licence and 6 under annual licences.

In last year's report it was stated that 1 slaughterhouse was operating under a three-monthly licence, this was because lairage accommodation at this slaughterhouse was not satisfactory. Two lairages attached to the slaughterhouse were improved during the year and an annual licence was, therefore, issued.

SLAUGHTERMEN

Twenty-one slaughtermen's licences were in operation at the end of 1957, 19 of them in respect of cattle, sheep and pigs and 2 in respect of those animals and horses. These latter were granted to the staff of a Knackers Yard situated outside the Solihull area and were intended to enable them to deal with any emergency that might occur at farms within the area.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle exclde Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	695	12	89	6284	1004	
Number inspected	695	12	89	6284	1004	
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	103	6	-	172	189	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.82	50.0		2.74	18.825	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	4			16	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.47	33.33			1.59	
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12					
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	* 3	-				
Generalised and totally condemned						

* These 3 are included in the 12 above

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS

The number of registered premises at the close of 1957 was 17.

Only nine of the seventeen registered premises are in use for the manufacture of meat products.

OTHER FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

Routine inspections of commercial kitchens, works canteens and of vehicles from which food is sold were made during the year, there being no stalls where food is prepared in the area.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The following information is in the form requested by the Ministry of Health:-

(i) *The number of food premises in the area by type of business:*

Butchers	...	...	...	...	53
Cafes & Snacks Bars including Public Houses serving meals					40
Confectioners (bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates & sweets)	...	...	...	...	54
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	7
Fried Fish & Chips	...	...	...	...	6
Fruiters and Greengrocers					51
Groceries and Provisions	...	...			122

(ii) *Number of registered food premises under Section 97 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936*

Ice Cream Vendors: 179, Manufacturers: 1,	
Wholesale Distributors: 1	181
Manufacturers of Meat Products	9
Dairies	

(iii) Inspections of registered food premises 94

(iv) The most successful educational propaganda is undoubtedly carried on by sanitary inspectors visiting food premises and talking or demonstrating to the workers on the spot. No opportunity is lost of stressing the importance of hygiene in the preparation and distribution of food and the high standard of food handling in shops in the area has been maintained.

In addition to these day to day activities the opportunity is taken of addressing meetings on the subject. Two such addresses were given to Organisations during the year.

(v) *The amount and method of disposal of condemned food.*

The following food was examined and disposed of by burial after inspection had shown that it was unfit for human consumption:

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Meat and Offal	1	16	-	25
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	1	16	-	25
Other Foods	-	3	1	12
	3	15	3	6

In connection with this work 940 "surrenders" of unsound food were made, in respect of which 632 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

(vi) *Special Examinations* Nil

vii) *(Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations 1947-52*

See previous paragraph on Ice Cream.

(viii) *Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56*

These regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. Generally speaking there has been ready compliance with the requirements of the Regulations, and as result of requests made by the Department the following work was carried out:-

Wash Hand Basins Provided	...	...	50
Wash Hand Notices provided	..	...	51
Hot Water provided	...	...	44
Sinks provided	...	...	13
Walls and Ceilings re-surfaced	...	...	67
Floors repaired	...	...	6
Lighting improved	...	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	...	3

No exceptional difficulties were experienced.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

The work done during 1957:-

		Total number of samples taken	
		Formal	Informal
Milk	...	82	
Miscellaneous Foods & Drugs	...	6	151

Of these, all the formal samples of milk and 4 formal and 144 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

The results of unsatisfactory samples of Foods and drugs found as a result of routine sampling were as follows:-

No.	Article	Method	Remarks
2800	Dandelion Coffee Essence	Informal	Contained preservative 2,000 p.p.m., Benzic Acid. Formal sample taken - See No. 283
2822	Pork Sausage	Informal	Contained preservative not declared. Retailer warned

<i>No</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Method</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
2825	Pork Sausage	Informal	Deficient of 16% total meat. Formal sample taken Genuine.
2833	Dandelion Coffee Essence	Formal	Contained preservative 4 500 p.p.m. Benzoic Acid. Old stock. Manufacturer stated that the Essence did not contain any preservative.
2844	Beef & Kidney Pie	Informal	Unsatisfactory label. Manufacture agreed to alter label.
2858	Cough Mixture	Informal	Deficient of 91.33% chloroform. Formal sample taken See No 2882
2882	Cough Mixture	Formal	Deficient of 90% chloroform. Old stock. Remainder withdrawn from sale
2927	Ginger Wine	Informal	Deficient of 13% of stated amount of proof spirit and unsatisfactory label. Old stock. Unable to obtain formal sample. Manufacture discontinued.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Total number of complaints received	28
Number of complaints where samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination	12
Number of complaints where samples were examined in the Department	5
Number of complaints dealt with Departmentally	11

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(i) *Samples submitted to the Public Analyst for Examination.*

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
2789	Cream of Chicken Soup	Alleged to have caused sickness after consumption. Sample had a marked odour of putrefaction which indicated that the sample was decomposing and that it was unfit for consumption. Council resolved. That a strong warning be issued to the firm concerned

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
2829	Fancy Crabmeat	Alleged to contain particles of glass. Sample contained harmless chemical crystals. No further action taken.
2831	Fresh Frozen Garden Peas	A number of peas contained small round holes which had the appearance of having been caused by small animals. No evidence that the peas were unfit for human consumption. Matter taken up with retailers who gave an assurance that all packets of this brand would be withdrawn from sale and destroyed.
2848	Bread	Contained small red foreign body consisting largely of cellulose fibres similar to those present in paper. Council resolved. That a strong warning be issued to the owners of the bakery concerned.
2849	Bread	Contained a large hole caused by a rodent. Unfit for human consumption. Council resolved. That a strong warning be issued to the owners of the bakery concerned.
2850	Butter	Contained a piece of dark coloured wood. Of foreign manufacture. Council resolved: That the attention of the packers be drawn to the matter.
2856	Liqueur Irish Whiskey	Complaint of raw taste. Consisted of genuine Irish Whiskey of good quality. No further action taken.
2862	Worcestershire Honey	Complaint of quality. Consisted of genuine honey free from adulteration. No further action taken.
2895	Cooked Butter Beans	Alleged to have caused blistering of lower lip and tongue of complainant. Normal and fit for consumption. No further action taken.

<i>Sample No</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
2903	Golden Plums	Contained two beetles and a number of parts of insects. Manufacturer warned.
2982	Tuberculin Tested Milk, (Pasteurised)	Dirty bottle. Referred to City of Birmingham.
2985	Rum Truffles	Contained mould growths. Legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £5 with £7.15.0d costs was imposed.

(2) Samples examined in the Department

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
C/1/57	Pasteurised Milk	Contained a piece of glass. Council resolved: That a strong warning be issued to the dairy concerned.
C/2/57	Malt Loaf	Contained a wire nail embedded in the surface. Council resolved: That a strong warning be issued to the firm concerned.
C/3/57	Process Peas	Found to have an earthy deposit adhering to inside lid of tin when opened. Firm undertook to ensure that steps were taken to avoid a recurrence of this nature. Council resolved: That a strong warning be issued to the firm concerned.
C/4/57	Pork Luncheon Meat	Contained a nail. Of foreign manufacture. Matter taken up with importers and manufacturers. Council resolved: That the companies concerned be informed that a serious view was taken of the complaint.
C/5/57	Pork Pie	Contained a mould growth. Legal proceedings were instituted and the firm was granted an absolute Discharge on payment of £6 costs.

<i>Sample No</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
D/1/57	Bread	Contained a piece of string.
D/2/57	Cornish Pasty	Contained ants.
D/3/57	Bread	Contained a piece of string.
D/4/57	Tuna Fish	Alleged to contain glass. Contained harmless chemical, crystals.
D/5/57	Fruit Pie	Contained a mould growth.
D/6/57	Pork Pie	Contained a mould growth.
D/7/57	Pasteurised Milk	Contained pieces of glass.
D/8/57	Sterilised Milk	Alleged to have caused sickness.
D/9/57	Bread	Contained part of an insect.
D/10/57	Skimmed Milk Powder	Alleged to be Baby Food. Referred to City of Birmingham.
D/11/57	Corned Beef	Failure of lacquering at ends of tin which caused blackening of meat. Referred to County Borough of Bournemouth.

SWIMMING POOLS

Both the Council owned pool and the privately owned pool are provided with continuous filtration and chlorination plants. From each pool during the bathing season two samples of the water were submitted to the public analysts for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and three to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination only. These results showed the bathing waters to be satisfactory.

The Public Health Inspectors visited the pools and carried spot tests of the water for free chlorine content and also for ph value which indicated its acidity or alkalinity. Advice was given when necessary to adjust the supply of chlorine or alkali in the form of soda ash.

After a prolonged heat wave in early June, there was a marked deterioration in the chemical quality of the water which lost its clarity. As the bottom of both pools could not be seen, it was considered advisable to empty the pools and replenish with clean water. each bath being closed for a few days whilst this was done.

FACTORIES ACTS: 1937 and 1948 Part I of the Act.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
With mechanical power ...	148	110	11	
Without mechanical power ...	14	10		
Works of Building or engineering construction	22	4		
Total	184	124	11	

	<i>Number of Cases in which Defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness	6	3
Inadequate Ventilation	-	2
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences		
Unsuitable or defective	4	3
Other offences	3	3
Total	14	12

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Part of the Clean Air Act, 1957 came into force as from 31st December, 1956.

Whilst Solihull is not an industrial area and, therefore, does not have to deal with the combustion problems of the heavy engineering processes it has many dwelling houses and some light industry. The Act states that dark smoke shall not be emitted from a chimney of any building and the occupier is the person responsible to prevent such an offence. The effect of this is to make it an offence to emit dark smoke from a dwelling house.

It is often said that smoke recognises no boundaries and Warwickshire Local Authorities realising this truth have decided to co-operate through a body called the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and have already decided that the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere shall be on a County wide basis.

For some years Solihull has had in operation one deposit gauge for measuring general pollution, and two lead peroxide instruments used for the measurement of sulphur dioxide. It is now proposed to install five deposit gauges, five lead peroxide instruments and one smokefilter which will be examined daily both for discolouration and for sulphur content.

The one deposit gauge situated on the Council House roof continued to be operated during 1957, and it showed that during the year 110 tons per square mile was deposited. The heaviest deposit took place during December when 14.3 tons per square mile was registered and the lightest in April when 3.5 tons was recorded per square mile.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIAL ACT, 1951

Only one firm is registered under this Act to upholster new furniture.

There are no premises licensed for the manufacture of rag flock or its storage for distribution to registered premises.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Four applications were received from proprietors of pet shops for their premises to be licensed. The Act sets out the conditions under which pet animals should be kept for sale.

Suitably qualified officers of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were asked by the Council to report upon the applicants' premises. A satisfactory report was received in each case and the necessary licence issued.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Again, one Rodent Operative with a small van was fully employed during the year and a summary of his work is given below:-

	Type of Property				
	Private	Business & Industrial	Local Authority	Agri-cultural	Total
Properties Inspected:					
On Complaint	550	45	16	10	621
Routine ...	390	4	-	-	394
Properties Treated ...	885	42	16	10	953
Dead Rats found	1,138	100	36	81	1,355
Dead Mice found	94	24	4	12	134

SEWER TREATMENTS

Normally, the underground sewers are surveyed twice a year, but owing to the illness of the Rodent Operative at the time when the tests should have taken place in the Autumn, only one test was carried out this year in early Spring.

Nowadays, the sewers are found to be only lightly infested and repeated treatments have shown that there was no apparent increase of the rat population in the sewers during the twelve months.

Details of the treatment and results obtained were:-

Date of Treatment	Bait & Poison used	No of Manholes baited	No. of Poisoned Baits taken	
			Partial	Complete
March	Sausage Bunks and Zinc Phosphide	46	1	
Sept.	Oatmeal and Warfarin	64	2	1

CARAVANS

Caravans sited in the area used for full time occupation have increased in number from 53 to 63. During the year in addition to the privately owned permanent site housing 32 caravans there were three temporary sites and one permanent site occupied by some hirt, two wooden caravans owned by travelling fair people who also carried out some trading. They remained in the area for some weeks. All new arrivals are carefully watched and in practically all cases application is made to the Council for permission to remain on a given site. These applications are either granted for short terms or refused under the provisions of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936, and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. The movements of caravans into and out of the district are shown in the table below.

Caravans used for full-time occupation

No. established at end of 1956	...	...	...	...	53
No. newly sited during 1957	...	...	...	...	55
No. removed from sites during 1957	...	...	...	...	45
No. established at end of 1957	...	...	...	...	63
No. of Temporary "Permissions" given under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Act, 1936 and Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 (including 2 renewals)	...	...	...	...	20
No. of "Permissions" refused before caravan sited	...	...	...	...	1

Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only:

No. established at end of 1956	...	...	...	...	15
No. newly sited during 1957	...	...	...	...	4
No. changed from full time to recreational	...	...	...	...
No. sited at end of 1957	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Caravans on only licensed site in the Borough at December, 1957	...	...	...	...	32

Nineteen persons were granted permission to use their caravans for a temporary period. Of these, 5 were owners who wished to live in the caravans pending completion of houses in course of construction and 8 were employees working temporarily on constructional sites.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

(a) Permanent Dwellings.

During the year 36 notices were served under the Housing Acts inviting owners to appear before the Council when demolition of their properties was being considered. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 45 houses. In the case of three houses in one group the owners undertook voluntarily to demolish the premises after the tenants had been re-housed by the Council. A Closing Order was made in respect of 1 house and in the case of 2 others an undertaking was accepted that the owner would recondition the properties.

In 1957 4 houses were demolished following action taken during the year and 22 houses demolished following Demolition Orders made during previous years. At the end of the year 29 cases were awaiting re-housing by the Council and 10 others were outstanding from previous years.

Reports were made to the Council with regard to four proposed Clearance Areas comprising 37 houses. Action was being considered by the Council at the year's close.

(b) Temporary Dwellings.

In 9 cases notices were served under the Housing Acts inviting owners to appear before the Council at the time when Demolition Orders were being considered. 20 Demolition Orders were made. One temporary dwelling was demolished as a result of action taken during the year and 3 in accordance with action taken in previous years. During the year tenants from

21 ex-Army hutments administered by the Council were re-housed and the hutments subsequently demolished

At the end of the year tenants of 12 dwellings were awaiting re housing by the Council.

SHOPS

The total number of shops in the Borough at December 31st, 1957 was 848 representing an increase of 37 over the total on December 31st, 1956.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

116 premises were licensed for the storage of a total 237,800 gallons of petroleum spirit and 14,493 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £116.15. 0d.

In accordance with the requirements of the Home Office Model Code relating to Petroleum Installations, old installations were tested and the following figures give some detail of work done:-

New installations supervised ...	12
Air tests on storage tanks supervised ...	16
Air tests on existing underground tanks supervised ...	1
Ullage tests on existing underground tanks carried out and air tests on associated pipelines ...	18
New vent pipes provided to existing underground tanks ...	8
New flame traps fitted to existing vent pipes ...	7
Miscellaneous defects remedied ...	7

F. PREVALANCE OF - AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. Incidence of ^{the} Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1950

<i>Year</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>
1950	1	73	49	2
1951	2	34	84	10
1952	"	83	73	19
1953	"	87	75	8
1954	"	136	54	7
1955	"	47	52	9
1956	"	25	51	15
1957	"	47	48	11

Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria have been notified since 1951

Scarlet Fever

The distribution of the cases notified was as follows:
Sheldon 7: Olton 6: Solihull 24: Shirley 8: Bentley Heath 1:
and Hockley Heath 1.

Poliomyelitis

Four cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis

Forty-one Respiratory and eight non-respiratory cases were notified during the year, these together with forty respiratory and three non-respiratory transferred from other authorities gave a total of eighty-one respiratory and eleven non respiratory cases.

Twenty six cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and twenty two were discharged after treatment (including some admitted during the previous year).

The number of notified cases on the Office Tuberculosis Register as at the 31st December, 1957, was as follows:-

<i>Respiratory</i>	<i>Non Respiratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
363	23	386

Food Poisoning

Six notifications were received during the year in respect of Food Poisoning. In no case was the cause of the illness discovered.

2. **Vaccinations**

(a) Smallpox

The number of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year was as follows:-

	<i>Age at Date of Vaccination</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	<i>1 - 4 yrs.</i>	<i>5 - 14 yrs.</i>	<i>15 yrs. or over</i>	
Initial vaccination	842	121	59	92	1114
Re-vaccination		7	38	163	208

Total Births 1,489

(b) Poliomyelitis

Vaccinations against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year, and at the 31st December, 1957, 4,570 children had received two injections.

Our acceptance rate (80%) for this new public health service is much higher than the national figure.

5. Immunisations

Diphtheria and Diphtheria/Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children known to have been immunised at any time before 31st December, 1957:

<i>Age at 31st December 1957</i>					<i>No. of children Immunised</i>
14	...	...	...	...	781
13	...	...	...	...	960
12	...	...	...	...	798
11	...	...	...	...	869
10	...	...	...	...	976
9	...	...	...	...	912
8	...	...	...	...	782
7	...	...	...	...	702
6	...	...	...	...	741
5	...	...	...	...	746
4	...	...	...	...	766
3	...	...	...	...	835
2	...	...	...	...	892
1	...	...	...	...	883
under 1	...	...	...	...	80

C. OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

No cases were dealt with by the Council.

TABLE OF WORK DONE - 1957

DWELLING HOUSES

Internal defects remedied

Defective plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defective ranges, fireplaces, flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective wastepipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

External defects remedied

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective pointing etc. of walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective yard paving and gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective rainwater pipes and eavesgutters	22
Defective dustbins	26

DEMOLITION

Houses demolished	28
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WATER SUPPLY

Houses connected to mains	22
Well supplies discontinued	15
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
H.W. apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Water Supply pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

DRAINAGE

Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cesspools discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

359

Brought forward 359

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Pails converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	36
H.F. and W.W closets to W.C.'s..	...	...	...	7
W.C Apparatus	...	...	...	29
Closet buildings	...	...	...	3
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	4

PETROLEUM

New installations supervised	...	...	...	12
Air tests on storage tanks supervised	...	...	...	17
Ullage tests on existing tanks carried out and air tests on associated pipelines	...	...	...	18
New vent pipes provided to existing tanks	...	...	...	8
New flame traps fitted to existing vent pipes	7
Miscellaneous	7

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Miscellaneous defects remedied	7
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MISCELLANEOUS

Defects at Food Premises remedied	237
Defects at factories remedied....	12
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	4
Watercourse and ditches cleansed	4
Insect disinfestations	24

MISCELLANEOUS DEFECTS REMEDIED	25
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TABLE I

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Summary of Visits and Notices Served in the Sanitary
Inspector's Department during the Year 1957

	Visits Made	<u>Notices Served</u>		Notices Complied with
		Stat- utory	Informal	
Housing - Public Health Acts	876	10	78	77
Housing - Housing Acts	676	-	27	18
Housing - Caravans	151	-	-	-
Housing - Rent Act	91	-	-	-
Drainage	577	-	22	22
Cesspools	27	-	-	-
Pail Closet Conversions	175	-	-	-
Refuse Storage & Disposal	63	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	14	-	-	-
Piggeries	98	-	-	-
Unsound Food	143	-	-	-
Kitchens, Canteens etc.	140	-	15	30
Shops (Food & Drugs Act)	630	-	-	-
Shop (Shop Acts)	527	-	-	-
Milk Supply	13	-	-	-
Ice Cream Premises	45	-	-	-
Licensed Premises	18	-	-	-
Sampling - Milk	115	-	-	-
Sampling - Food & Drugs Act	192	-	-	-
Sampling - Ice Cream	18	-	-	-
Sampling - Water	176	-	-	-
Sampling - Atmos. Pollution	25	-	-	-
Smoke Observations	18	-	-	-
Smoke Visits	60	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	1047	-	-	-
Factories and Workplaces	124	-	-	-
Water Supplies	84	-	-	-
Water Courses and Ditches	48	-	-	-
Swimming Pools	38	-	-	-
Infectious Disease	110	-	-	-
Rats and Mice Complaints	78	-	-	-
Insect Infestations	62	-	-	-
Petrol Installations	477	-	-	-
Interviews	478	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	729	-	-	-
	<u>8143</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>147</u>

TABLE II
BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL
Vital Statistics of Whole District During 1957 and Previous
Years

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Nett Deaths Belonging To the District			
		Nett		Under 1 year of Age		At all ages	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1949	66,850	1,052	15.5	33	31.3	589	8.8
1950	67,640	1,035	15.3	29	28.01	587	8.6
1951	67,980	991	14.5	29	29.2	676	9.9
1952	68,420	897	13.1	26	28.9	600	8.7
1953	69,570	962	13.8	25	25.9	565	8.1
1954	72,470	1,033	14.2	21	20.3	598	8.2
1955	75,740	1,181	15.6	22	18.6	660	8.7
1956	78,860	1,264	16.0	14	11.1	636	8.1
1957	81,620	1,489	18.2	22	14.7	681	8.3

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1957

England and Wales

*Firth-rate, Death rate, and Infantile Mortality during
the Year 1957. (Provisional Figures)*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population

Live Births per 1,000 Population	...	...	16.1
Deaths per 1,000 Population	...	...	11.5
Still Births per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	...	...	22.4
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	23.0

TABLE 111

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year 1957

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified									Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages - Years								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & Upwards	Age unknown	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	12	-	-	-	-	1	7	3	1	-
Scarlet Fever	47	-	7	39	-	-	-	-	1	2
Paratyphoid Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	48	3	3	5	7	6	9	11	4	1
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	8	-	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11	-	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	8
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	4	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1
Acute Encephalitis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Polio-Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	41	-	-	-	15	13	8	5	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	6	-	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	1
TOTAL	192	10	17	50	27	36	26	20	6	15

TABLE IV

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Causes of Death During the Year 1957

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
ALL CAUSES	374	307
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	1
2. Tuberculosis, Other... ..	-	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	1
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	4	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	8
11. Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	27	4
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	14
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasm	47	44
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	1
16. Diabetes	1	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	44	53
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	81	29
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	9
20. Other Heart Disease	33	37
21. Other Circulatory Disease	15	14
22. Influenza	5	6
23. Pneumonia	13	17
24. Bronchitis	18	7
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	11	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	6
32. Other defined and ill defined Diseases	23	30
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
34. All other Accidents	6	10
35. Suicide	3	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-

TABLE V

ANNUAL REPORT - 1957

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDINGS FROM THE STATION AT 90, STATION ROAD, SOLIHULL

Kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. C. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E..

Barometer set at 442 feet above Sea Level							
Month	Thermometers at 4° 0' Shaded (Fahrenheit Scale)			Rainfall		Sunshine	
	Maximum Air Varied Between	Minimum Air Varied Between	Minimum Ground Varied Between	Monthly Total Inches	Average for the month over 10 years	Monthly Total Hours	Average for the month over 10 years
January	30.9 to 55.1	28.4 to 47.9	19.5 to 44.5	1.23	2.25	40.4	41.6
February	53.8 to 38.2	42.7 to 24.3	39.8 to 16.4	2.96	1.82	72.1	62.8
March	41.7 to 68.5	29.9 to 49.6	20.0 to 46.1	2.51	2.36	76.8	89.8
April	45.8 to 65.9	46.9 to 32.9	40.6 to 27.5	0.230	1.84	129.85	140.3
May	49.2 to 71.7	29.5 to 49.9	22.2 to 47.4	1.52	2.57	174.9	172.2
June	56.8 to 87.4	37.0 to 60.9	26.8 to 52.4	.85	2.08	287.3	167.1
July	61.1 to 83.0	44.6 to 61.0	33.2 to 55.9	4.48	1.96	107.7	184.5
August	79.2 to 57.4	58.4 to 42.8	54.8 to 33.9	3.70	3.07	121.5	164.6
September	50.2 to 70.3	27.1 to 55.0	29.3 to 50.0	4.78	2.10	84.3	118.2
October	52.5 to 67.3	34.1 to 54.8	28.0 to 53.5	1.29	2.46	60.1	91.9
November	41.4 to 55.1	26.0 to 45.3	19.7 to 44.7	2.17	3.09	47.6	53.5
December	56.0 to 35.0	45.2 to 21.2	42.0 to 15.6	2.10	2.34	54.7	40.0